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Clarkson College of Technology

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Local Students Arrested on Phone Charges

by Jeff Mark

Last Tuesday night, the New York Telephone Company and the New York State Police entered into the Potsdam stage of a state-wide raid. The raid followed a three-month investigation by the telephone company. Clarkson students Jonathan Wolfert, Lee Maisler, David Levy, William Cotter, John Watson, and Robert Darling and Potsdam State students Mary Lyn McGill and Elizabeth Dooley were arrested for allegedly using illegal telephone equipment to bypass telephone company free long-distance phone calls.

The telephone company charged that the eight used a number of so-called "blue-boxes" otherwise known as "Spiros" to make thousands of dollars worth of long distance phone calls. The "Spiro", which is essentially a duplicate of an operator's keyboard, bypassed billing by making the billing equipment believe that an operator was making the call.

Although all eight were arrest-

ed at the same time, it appeared that they worked more or less independently, even though they knew each other socially.

John Watson and Robert Darling were charged with theft of services and possession of burglary tools. They pleaded guilty and were released pending sentencing on \$250 bail.

Jon Wolfert and Mary McGill were charged with possession of burglary tools and Bill Cotter was charged with possession of burglary tools and criminal tampering. They pleaded not guilty and were released on \$250 bail pending trial.

David Levy and Lee Maisler

were charged with criminal tampering. Both pleaded guilty—Maisler was fined \$25 and Levy was released pending sentencing on \$250 bail.

Elizabeth Dooley was charged with criminal tampering and theft of service. She pleaded not guilty and was released on \$250 bail pending trial.

Other arrests across the state included students at Columbia, Cornell, Ithaca, and N.Y. Institute of Technology on Long Island. Shortly after the New York State raid 10 students at Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland, Ohio were arrested on similar charges.